



Mrs. Helen E. Garrison,
125 Highland Street,
Roxbury,
Mass.





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Old Orchard House, July 15.
1875

Dear Wife:

The journey from Boston yesterday was somewhat sultry, considerably dusty, and, on the whole, so far as natural scenery was concerned, generally uninteresting. The Eastern route, through Lynn, Salem, Newburyport, &c., is decidedly more attractive. We arrived on time, at ten minutes past 12 o'clock, Mr. Lewis meeting me promptly. The Orchard House is a short distance from the depot, and, though farther removed from the beach than any other hotel, commands a magnificent view of the ocean — the beach being the finest, safest, (for bathing,) and most extensive of any I have ever seen — some eight or ten miles long. Yesterday was admitted by all here to have been the most perfect day of the season — brilliant, bracing, just the right temperature. After dinner, a barouche was ordered, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, and John Ritchie and

myself occupied about two hours in a drive along the beach and through the woods, visiting an excellent slate quarry, and enabling me to get a good view of the "lay of the land," as well as spread of the ocean, in this region - including Prout's Neck, the chosen retreat of our good friends the Thaxters. The ride was highly enjoyable. On our return, Mrs. Lewis introduces me to a number of ladies and gentlemen, who are here for the season, and who all gave me a courteous and cordial welcome. The only regret she expresses at my coming is, that the season is too early for a crowd of visitors, and therefore there is not the gayety and brilliancy that there will be in the course of the next fortnight, when this immense house will be overflowing; but I am glad to be spared such a rush, especially as the number already here are sufficient to make a respectable appearance in the huge dining-hall. Mrs. Lewis is as kind and assiduous in her attentions as Fanny could be, and Mr. Lewis and John are equally desirous to make my visit an agreeable one.

There are several here who remember with pleasure the visit of Fanny and her children, and kind inquiries are made about them.

Every evening, from 8 till half past 10 o'clock, there is music by a band in the large dancing hall, with waltzing and various other dances ~~with~~^{by} such of the company as choose to take the floor. Last evening John Ritchie took the lead in getting parties engaged to dance the Virginia Reel, the Lancers, &c. He and Mrs. Lewis expressed much regret that Frank did not come with me, as young gentlemen are very scarce, and young ladies sufficiently numerous to furnish a good chance for at least a temporary acquaintance. In the evening train there came from Boston (to remain with the Lewises for a fortnight) a very pretty young lady, named Kennedy, who was born in Kentucky, but whose parents have been living in Jamaica Plain for some time, and are soon to occupy a house on Columbus Avenue.

This morning betokens another charming day; and as the night before I came, there was a

heavy thunder-storm here, it seems probable that I shall escape my usual ill-luck^{as} to rain. Last evening the moon shone brilliantly upon the great ocean.

To-morrow morning (unless the weather should be adverse) I shall take the train for Portland, returning in the evening; and on Saturday leave for home. I am not certain at what time I shall arrive, but at the latest expect to be with you before 9 o'clock, P. M. I cannot go through Newburyport by this route, and may possibly conclude to stop over night at Portland, so as to take the train that runs through my native town. But as Mr. Lewis returns to Boston on Saturday, it is quite likely that, for the sake of his company, I may go from this place - visiting Newburyport another time.

I trust you have had another cheering letter from Fanny. I am now feeling very well. Regards to Anne.

Your ever loving

W. L. G.